



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Virginia Department of Social Services nets \$11.4 million award

--Incentive money received for child support enforcement efforts--

Richmond – The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has been awarded \$11.4 million for its outstanding performance in the child support enforcement program.

“We collected a record \$506 million on behalf of more than 470,000 children in 2003,” said VDSS Commissioner Maurice A. Jones. “The Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) continues to excel each year in its efforts to help contribute to the financial security of children in the Commonwealth.”

The award for outstanding performance in overall operations in state fiscal year 2003 represents record collections, including a 6.8 percent increase in collections from the \$474 million collected in state fiscal year 2002.

Each year, states are eligible for additional funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services based on support collections, cost effectiveness, paternities established and support orders established. Virginia ranks high in all areas.

The award money will be reinvested into child support enforcement efforts, said Commissioner Jones.

“Parents who pay their child support obligations help their children escape poverty and have a higher standard of living,” said DCSE Director Nick Young. “It is not only a legal obligation, but also a moral and human responsibility.”

“We project that we will collect more than \$536 million by the end of 2004 for the children of the Commonwealth,” said Young.

“About one quarter of all children in Virginia rely on child support payments for their financial stability,” said Commissioner Jones. “But just as importantly, parents who pay support are more likely to be involved in their children’s lives, so it’s a win-win for the children’s financial security and positive emotional development.”

For more information on child support enforcement, as well as a list of “Most Wanted” evaders, log on to the VDSS Web site at: <http://www.dss.state.va.us/family/dcse.html>.